

## **REMARKS**

This paper is being submitted in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated May 17, 2007, wherein the patent office indicated the following deficiencies in the Preliminary Amendment dated March 16, 2006:

- (1) No marked-up substitute specification was submitted; and
- (2) The claims status identifier "Amended" should read "Currently Amended."

Initially, Applicants thank Ms. Rose Holland for the return telephone messages left with Applicants' undersigned representative on May 25, 2007, wherein Ms. Holland agreed that a marked-up substitute specification was in fact submitted to the patent office with the Preliminary Amendment dated March 16, 2006.

In particular, the patent office appears to have mis-indexed the marked-up substitute specification when scanning it into the image file wrapper (IFW). Specifically, the United States Patent & Trademark Office's IFW for the subject application, which is available in the PAIR database, identifies an entry dated March 16, 2006 entitled "Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment." This entry includes 20 total pages, pages 2 - 20 of which constitute the marked-up version of the substitute application submitted with the Preliminary Amendment dated March 16, 2006.

Accordingly, Applicants do not resubmit the marked-up copy of the substitute specification herewith.

With respect to the second deficiency identified by the office, Applicants resubmit herewith claims 1-45, as presented in the Preliminary Amendment dated March 16, 2006. Claim 1-45 submitted herewith include proper status identifiers.

Applicants further note that claims 1-45 presented herein do not replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application, but rather, merely replace claims 1-45 submitted in the Preliminary Amendment on March 16, 2006. Such claims are therefore additionally subject to the amendments submitted in the Second Preliminary Amendment dated May 17, 2006.

Application No. 10/572,176

Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated May 17, 2007

Atty. Docket No.: 30931/F50019

Applicants believe this paper to be a complete reply to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment and therefore, respectfully request favorable examination of the subject application. If there is any issue that the office believes may be remedied via telephone conference, Applicants invite the office to telephone the undersigned at (312) 474-6300.

Dated: May 25, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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